

2: Jones-Jackson L-5 (1973-1986) 1987
 NN23 Sea Islanders NN23
 South Carolina

Topography 7

Table 1. Land Use for BCD Region

Category	Acres	% of Total
Developed areas		
Urban uses	75,000	4.29
Residential	21,000	1.20
Commercial	3,500	0.20
Industrial	12,600	0.72
Public and other	37,900	2.17
Agricultural uses		
Cropland and pasture	178,800	10.23
Forest and woodlands (excluding swampland forests)	861,740	49.30
Undeveloped areas		
Marsh and swampland	416,600	23.83
Inland waterways	140,800	8.06
Total	1,747,940	100.00

Source: BCD Council of Governments, *Regional Housing Market Analysis*, 1975, p. 5; figuring corrected.

491 the islands to the mainland before 1940. Though considerable sums of money have been expended within recent years on the construction of long, narrow bridges to span the Atlantic coast, ocean recesses, rivers, and streams, the more remote islands, such as Sandy and Daufuski, continue to be inaccessible except by boat.⁷ Most of the Sea Islands

361 remain very sparsely settled despite the population growth brought on by recent industrialization and commercialization. The landscape is pastoral and mysterious compared to inland areas of the United States. Most islands are characterized by graceful palmetto trees, expansive green terrain, and atmospheric haze. The landscape in fact bears a striking resemblance to the topography of such coastal countries as Nigeria, Ghana, Angola, and Liberia, the tropical homelands of the Sea Islanders' ancestors.⁸

• 365 Electricity came to the more remote islands only as recently as the 1960s. Streetlights rarely line the narrow roadways of even the more developed islands, and in late evening the overhanging trees give the roads a ghostly allure. After nightfall it is literally impossible to see even two feet ahead.⁹

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159 slowly pulled his fist apart to suggest a slow stretching process, saying,
201 "Stretch out, stretch out, stretch out." Then, in a sweeping motion, he
538 tightened his fist and with one violent jerk emphasized the king snake's
ultimate quick, spasmodic motion.

159 Mr. Mickell is a great talker. The speech samples I obtained from
524 him ranged from childhood experiences to tales of the bizarre. He is a
good singer and participates in the shouts with enthusiasm. But the
outstanding feature in his repertoire is a collection of dozens and
dozens of riddles. Riddling is a pastime activity common among the
older Sea Island men and women. In fact, Mr. Mickell and one of his
close friends often sat for hours telling riddles until one or the other ran
out of riddles to tell.

159 Without a doubt, *Aneatha Brisbane, Miss Myma*, is my closest
123 link to the Sea Island communities. She was born in a shanty, still
342 standing on Wadmalaw Island, and never really ventured far from the
site on which it now stands. Her mother lived in the shanty before Miss
Myma was born, and when she died, Miss Myma continued to live
there until she purchased a one-bedroom trailer some fifteen or twenty
years ago. The trailer was a weather-beaten shell of a home consisting
of a living room, a kitchen, and a bedroom. It had no running water, no
electricity, and no toilet, though it was equipped with appropriate con-
• (365) nections. I soon understood that while these things are primary for
(514) survival for most Americans, to stay on the Sea Islands I had to be
159 ready to live without them. I learned to adjust my eyes to the kerosene
123 lamp that Miss Myma lit so that I could read after nightfall. I learned to
make sure that we got wood in to burn in the potbellied wood stove to
warm the house in the cool mornings. I learned that if I filled a number-
three tub with water from a neighbor's well in the morning and set it in
the hot island sun all day, the water would be just the right temperature
for a refreshing bath in the evening.

159 Miss Myma is a very sophisticated-looking woman, with high
cheek bones, reddish brown skin that she says she acquired from the
Wadmalaw Indians, and the most beautiful white hair I ever saw. She is
naturally friendly, smokes a pipe, and is said to have been very lively
in her younger days. She is soft-spoken and generally restrained in her
language (though I have heard some of her women friends use words
which would make the vulgarest of men shrink in shame). Her manner
can be deceiving, however. I observed her once in an argument with

(TEXT CONTINUED ON PAGE 62)

484 be a one-day affair by boat. Electricity did not become
• 365 available in some rural areas until the paving of a coastal
162 highway in 1936. In this isolated county the population re-
mained primarily of West African descent until the most recent
census. Of a total population of 33,500 in 1970, Georgetown
County had slightly more than fifty-one percent white resi-
dents--the first time that whites had outnumbered blacks
since the eighteenth century (Georgetown County Development
Plan, 1972; Rogers, 1970).

2.3 A Closed Community in Georgetown County

131 In more isolated portions of the county, blacks still
162 outnumber whites. One such area is a river island of approxi-
mately fifty square miles, whose two hundred permanent resi-
121 dents are black. The speech used by inhabitants of this
island, together with that of selected speakers in adjacent
mainland communities, is the focus of the present study.

505 In important senses, this island constitutes a closed
community. The vast majority of trips made off the island
are for jobs, school attendance, or to secure supplies. Few
people come onto the island without an express invitation
from some island resident, because of the difficulty of ac-
cess. The boat landing is unmarked and must be known to the
would-be visitor, and the distance between the mainland
landing and the island is a two-mile boat trip which can be
hazardous for the unskilled boat driver, and even for the
skilled in bad weather.

5: Nichols

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512 neighbor in the hospital of a nearby town. Young men some-
505 times go across the water again for recreation in town.
(574) Young women usually cannot drive either a boat or a car and
are dependent upon some male family member for transportation
if they wish to go into town for similar reasons. Electricity
365 came to the island in 1964 and changed the habits of the
207 islanders considerably. Today television provides a major
517 source of recreation for most families in the evenings.
206 Children of ten and eleven watch it many hours in the after-
noons and evenings. Telephones have been available since
1972. Some children engage in frequent and lengthy conversa-
tions with their mainland friends after school. A new boat
504 landing is scheduled for completion in 1977, which will be
505 large enough to accommodate a ferry. With its completion,
reliance on small motor boats will be phased out and main-
landers will have easier access to the island. When the
ferry becomes operational, it is probable that the community
will become much less of a closed community in important ways.

512 Weekends are reserved for the major social activities
(438) of the community. Saturdays are devoted to shopping for
(574) major supplies in town, or for entertaining mainland visitors
and relatives. The major social event of the week is the
512 Sunday morning church service. Most islanders walk two or
796 three miles to the major church at the center of the island.
(493) A few families keep four-wheeled vehicles on the island, and
491 older residents ride in these. Roads on the island are sandy.

6: Smith

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362 is 4.67. Edisto has 239 Black occupied units.

Precise data on the secondary characteristics of Black Sea Island housing units were unavailable. The following figures are based on a total of 3,685 rural units and 613 rural farm units in Charleston County and can consequently serve only as a general indicator for the secondary characteristics of Black Sea Island households. Only 1,547 of the rural units have all plumbing facilities. One thousand three hundred and eighty-six of these units are renter occupied. The overwhelming majority (3,381) of the units have no inside water facilities. One thousand six hundred and forty-five of the units were constructed before 1939 and 1,384 between 1940 and 1949. One thousand three hundred and twenty-seven of the units are valued at less than \$5,000. The median size of rural units is 4.05 rooms.

362
423
427 Of a total of 18,952 Black occupied units in the county, 8,142 units are owner occupied. Of the owner occupied units 2,988 were occupied in 1949 or earlier and 1,069 of the renters have a similar residency pattern. The median size of all Black occupied units is 4.7 rooms. The median size of owner occupied units is 5.7 and 4.0 for renter units. The median monthly rent paid is \$41.00 for units without and \$48.00 for units with all plumbing facilities.